III. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~determining~~ acquiring a signal code, the method comprising steps of:

acquiring a signal from a first transceiver at a second transceiver;

correlating the signal with a first code sequence having a first code rate;

~~achieving a timing lock in response to the step of correlating the signal with a first code sequence;~~

transmitting, in response to the step of correlating the signal with ~~a~~ said first code sequence, an acknowledgement from ~~a~~ said second transceiver ~~receiver~~ of the signal to ~~a~~ said first ~~transmitter~~ transceiver of the signal; and

changing, at said first and second transceivers, in response to the step of correlating the signal with the first code sequence, to a second code sequence having a second code rate that is higher than said first rate.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1 wherein ~~the step of correlating the signal with~~ the first and second code sequences comprises ~~the step of correlating the signal with a first~~a pseudo-noise (PN) code sequence.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) A method as in claim 1 wherein the step of changing to the second code sequence comprises the steps of:

tracking the first code sequence in the receiver of the signal;

changing the first code sequence of a first code generator of the transmitter of the signal to the second code sequence; and

changing the first code sequence of a second code generator of the receiver of the signal to the second code sequence.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 4 wherein the steps of changing the first code sequence to the second code sequence in ~~the transmitter and receiver~~said first and second transceivers is in response to ~~, respectively, comprise the steps of changing from the first code sequence to the second code sequence in the transmitter and receiver, respectively, on~~ the occurrence of a predetermined event.

6. (Currently Amended) A signal code acquisition system comprising:

a first transceiver;

a first multi-rate code generator connected to the first transceiver for generating a first coded signal having a first code rate;

a second transceiver responsive to the first transceiver for receiving said first coded signal at said first code rate; ~~and~~

a second multi-rate code generator connected to the second transceiver; ~~.~~ and

control circuits for changing, at said first and second transceivers, to a second code sequence having a second code rate that is higher than said first rate.

7. (Currently Amended) A signal code acquisition system as in claim 6 wherein the first and second multi-rate code generators comprises ~~s~~ a pseudo-noise (PN) code generator.

8-10. (cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A signal code acquisition system as in claim 6 wherein the first and second multi-rate code generators comprises ~~s~~ ~~a first~~ dual rate code generators.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method of determining a coded signal, the method comprising steps of:

transmitting a first coded signal having a first code rate from a transmitter system;

receiving the first coded signal on a receiver system;

calculating a probability of detection of the first coded signal; and

changing the first coded signal to a second coded signal having a second code rate that is higher than said first rate, in response~~responsive~~ to the probability of detection (PD) of the first coded signal exceeding a predetermined amount.

14.(original) A method as in claim 13, wherein ~~the steps of transmitting and receiving the first~~ the coded signals comprises ~~the steps of transmitting and receiving a first~~ pseudo-noise (PN) coded signals.~~, respectively.~~

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim ~~15~~ 13 wherein the step of changing the first coded signal to a second coded signal comprises the steps of:

waiting a predetermined amount of time;

changing a first pseudo-noise (PN) code~~e~~ of the receiver system to a second PN code after the predetermined amount of time has elapsed; and

changing a second PN code~~e~~ of the transmitting system to a second PN code after the predetermined amount of time has elapsed.

17. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 16 wherein the ~~steps of changing the first and second codecs comprise the steps of~~ changing of the first and second codees occurs contemporaneously.

18. (New) A method, according to claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

calculating a probability of detection of the first coded signal; and

changing the first coded signal to a second coded signal responsive to the probability of detection (PD) of the first coded signal exceeding a predetermined amount.